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A New White House Advisor

The addition of Gen. Maxwell Taylor to President Kennedy's corps of advisors is a good choice, but he should not supplant the experts who already are serving.

His new job was described in the White House announcement as that of advisor and staff officer primarily within military and intelligence fields.

President Kennedy already is advised in these areas by such agencies as the Cabinet, the National Security Council, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Taylor, when he was assigned to study the Cuban invasion fiasco, was mentioned as a possible successor to Allen Dulles as head of CIA, which then was taking much criticism for the failure.

The speculation came even before Taylor started to work. We have not seen his report, but discussion after Congress made its own investigation indicated blame should be borne by several persons or agencies.

If the CIA was to blame, a change is in order there. Taylor's appointment in-

dicates the other story was more correct — blame falls in many directions.

Is Taylor going to be a filter between the President and all of the intelligence sources? Is he to weigh the advice of various agencies and tell the President who is right or wrong?

The White House announcement said Taylor will not come between any of the agencies and the President, although he will have access to all of their information.

With an office in the White House, a privilege not enjoyed by the agency chiefs, Taylor is bound to have influence beyond the others.

Taylor has the experience and ability for the assignment, but too heavy a reliance upon him would be unwise.

One of his first duties will be to assess the military and intelligence preparations for a Berlin crisis.

However, Berlin is primarily a political problem, and until it becomes something else the Secretary of State, with his experts, should have the President's closest attention.

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